

DATE OF MEETING: October 12, 2023

PLACE OF MEETING: Village Hall

KIND OF MEETING: Business

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Lauri Taylor  
Commissioner Jerry Locascio  
Commissioner Burweger  
Commissioner Stephen Pezzella  
Commissioner Arthur Guzzo  
Commissioner Phil DeRosa  
Town of Pawling Alternate – Jim McCarthy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner James Schmitt

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Justin Kadish, Waste Water Treatment Plant

At 7:00 p.m. the Business Meeting of the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission was called to order by Chairperson Lauri Taylor with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Locascio to approve the September 14, 2023 Business Meeting Minutes as presented, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Pezzella. There was no discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Guzzo to approve the September 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Locascio to approve the September 2023 Voucher's Report as presented. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

**MOTION** by Chairperson Taylor to approve transfer of \$72,020.86 from O&M Acct. ending in 0030 to Checking Acct. ending in 0190 to pay the September 2023 Vouchers. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

**MOTIONED** by Chairperson Taylor to approve the transfer of \$7,080.00 from Capital Acct. ending in 0000 to Checking Acct. ending in 0190 to pay LaBella Voucher for the 2023 I&I Study. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Guzzo. There was no discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

**MOTIONED** by Chairperson Taylor to approve transfer of \$366.78 from Thompson Escrow Acct. ending in 4570 to Checking Acct. ending in 0190 to pay Ti-Sales Voucher. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Guzzo to approve Ref. # 69.23 – Proposed Constellation Lock-in Rate. **SECONDED** by Chairperson Taylor. There was no further discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

The next item on the Agenda was Ref. # 66.23 – Chairperson Taylor skipped over this item until we could have Justin Kadish of the WWTP on the phone.

Chairperson Taylor spoke about the sewer pump station located at 7 Haight Street which services just the Elementary School. This pump station was pumped out as part of normal routine on August 25, 2023 and while Justin was out on daily rounds on September 14, 2023 he discovered that this pump station was backing up. Savarese Septic was called to pump it out and the PJSC was charged \$825.00. Chairperson Taylor had drafted a letter to the Superintendent of Schools letting her know this had happened (Ref. # 70.23) and requested that the School to put up signage in the bathrooms & the cafeteria about what not to put down into the sewer. Chairperson Taylor also said we can't continue to absorb the cost of pump-outs due to a user's negligence and was explained in the letter. Moving forward, we would need to hold the school responsible for emergency call-out in the future. Commissioner DeRosa added that besides asking for the signage that the school educates the staff and students. Commissioner Locascio asked if we had some type of print out that we could hand out to the school and all customers using the sewer system. Christine said she would take a look. Commissioner Pezzella asked if this has been a continuous problem with the school. Justin responded saying that this particular pump station has been a problem mostly due to the amount of feminine products that are being flushed and there has been at least one or two times previously where they found the blue microfiber towels caught in the pumps. Chairperson Taylor then asked for motion for the letter to be sent out. **MOTIONED** by Commissioner Locascio with the caveat that additional information regarding educating the staff & students. **SECONDED** by Commissioner DeRosa. There was no further discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor asked Justin to speak about Ref. # 66.23 – Grainger quote for two VFD's. Justin explained that we just finished having one of the blowers fixed by installing a new VFD and we still have another blower that's not working because it also needs a new VFD. By ordering two VFD's we will be able to keep one on the shelf in the event we need to replace another VFD. Commissioner Burweger asked if we knew why the VFD's were shorting out. Justin said it was mostly due to the atmosphere in the room, there are two big drum filters in the same room that aerates water, so there is a bit of mist in the room. Chairperson Taylor explained that she likes to have one of everything on the shelf so in the event of an emergency we don't have to wait for weeks on end like we were doing during Covid. Commissioner Locascio asked how many of the VFD's do we have at the Plant. Justin said there are three of these particular VFS's. **MOTIONED** by Commissioner Locascio to purchase the two VFD's. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

**MOTIONED** by Commissioner Guzzo to approve Ref. # 68.23 – final pay application & payment in the amount of \$87,591.01 & Change Order No.: 1 for signature. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

Commissioner Guzzo asked if we still needed to vote on Ref. # 67.23 to pay the invoice for Savarese Septic. **MOTIONED** by Commissioner Guzzo. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor asked Dan Stone if he had any updates on the Castagna project. Dan said part of PJSC responsibility was to inspect the septic tanks when they were being installed and inspect the connection to the sewer system. All of the septic tanks have been installed and inspected and they still have to complete the sewer main which is fairly deep and in rock around the existing buildings to make that connection and he expects that will be done before winter, but

that sewer is not installed yet or inspected. Dan continued, saying that he had no new information on the ASPCA project, however he would call that engineer in the morning. Commissioner DeRosa commented that he had driven up to the Castagna project and said the buildings are moving right along. He also said he didn't think anything was going on up at the ASPCA site – Jim McCarthy said they did have some trailers on the site – he added that the first building at Castagna was close to being finished, however they think it's going to be an additional 6-8 months before its completely ready. Commissioner Locascio asked Dan if LaBella had provided oversight on the septic tank installs at Castagna – Dan said they had witnesses and inspected all of the tanks before they were backfilled. Dan Stone asked if he could comment further on the ASPCA – the approval of their connection requires the installation of an odor control system on the waste water treatment pump station property – he continued, the former Chair & Deputy Chair had numerous discussions about this and felt that installing this would be relatively easy and between the Town resources and the Village Resources it could be done with force account. This doesn't need NY State Occupancy Permit. All of that property the pump station and the area where we want to put the odor control system is on State land associated with Route 22 so because you are a municipality you don't need an occupancy permit from DOT, but they do have some oversight and we are working through that to make sure that what we do is consistent with what they'll accept.

Chairperson Taylor recognized that Dave Daniels was not in attendance to give an attorney report, so she called upon Dan Stone for his engineers report. Dan said with all of the rain we have had over the last few months have kept Justin very busy at the WWTP. We have determined that most of the inflow is coming from the East side of Route 22, Sewer District #1 and Trinity Pawling. Dan is hoping next week to transfer the information we recorded with Rural Water and convert that to a map so that everyone can see what we are up against especially Trinity Pawling because there is a significant amount of I&I coming from the school. Under the SPDES Permit we are obligated to discover & remove I&I when we find it. That obligation passes down to the users and we need to implement a plan that can be implemented over the next several years.

Justin reported that we had the sewer line on Memorial cleaned out last week by Cook, so we shouldn't be having any further back-ups on this line, but there was a lot of grease in that line. Justin said Dan had basically reported everything he was going to speak about regarding the inflow coming from Trinity Pawling. Chairperson Taylor said that with each of these storms, Justin has had to stay at the plant so he can manually operate things because it exceeds the amount of liquid that's supposed to pass through there and we don't ever want raw sewage to ever leave the plant, so he stays there and manually operates it so we have a huge I&I problem and once we get that fixed, we should never have to do this again where Justin has to manually operate the plant. Commissioner DeRosa asked if the I&I at Trinity Pawling is mainly coming from the lawn area – Chairperson Taylor confirmed. Dan Stone wanted to put on the record that the Town & Village had met three times to discuss the future sewer rates and there would be another meeting on the following Wednesday.

Chairperson Taylor asked for a motion to close the meeting. **MOTIONED** by Commissioner Burweger to close the regular business meeting. **SECONDED** by Commissioner DeRosa. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried. There was no attendance by the public at this meeting. Time 7:40 PM.

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Jerry Locascio, Secretary